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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION PROOM FOR MR FAZIO WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: UH-4

DATE: 4 JUN 74

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS KILLED

REF

THE CAMBODIAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND AN AIDE TO PRESIDENT

THE CAMBODIAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND AN AIDE TO PRESIDENT LON NOL, WHO WAS A FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WERE KILLED TODAY, REPORTEDLY BY STUDENT AGITATORS. THE STUDENTS REPORTEDLY SEIZED THE TWO OFFICIALS AT THE EDUCATION MINISTRY AND THEN TOOK THEM TO A NEARBY BHIGH SCHOOL, WHERE THE KBILLING OCCURRED. BOTH OFFICIALS APPARENTLY WERE SHOT. AT LAST REPORT, AS MANY AS SEVEN STUDENTS HAD BEEN KILLED BY GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE HIGH SCHOOL AND ARREST THE STUDENT AGITATORS.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE PRECEDUED BY SEVERAL DAYS OF SMALL **

AND ORDERLY PROTESTS BY STUDENT AND TEACHER ELEMENTS IN THE CAPITAL

WHO HAD BEEN DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF FIVE STUDENTS RECENTLY

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ARRESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. EARLIER, A LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS

AND TEACHERS THAT HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE HAD

BEEN RELEASED. THE ARRESTS WERE DESIGNED TO QUASH STUDENT-TEACHER

PLANS TO ORGANIZE A "POPULAR CONGRESS" TO DISCUSS NEW ANTI
GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT CAMBODIAN STUDENTS HAVE RESORTED TO SUCH EXTREME MEASURES. UNTIL NOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS HANDLED THE LONG-STANDING STUDENT-TEACHER UNREST WITH RESTRAINT. LON NOL, IN PARTICULAR, HAS BEEN CONDICERNED ABOUT GETTING INTO ANY CONFRONTATION WITH THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WHICH COULD LEAD TO LARGE-SCALE DISORDERS. GIVEN TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GET TOUCH WITH ITS OPPONENTS. BEZ IMPDET.H

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